

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

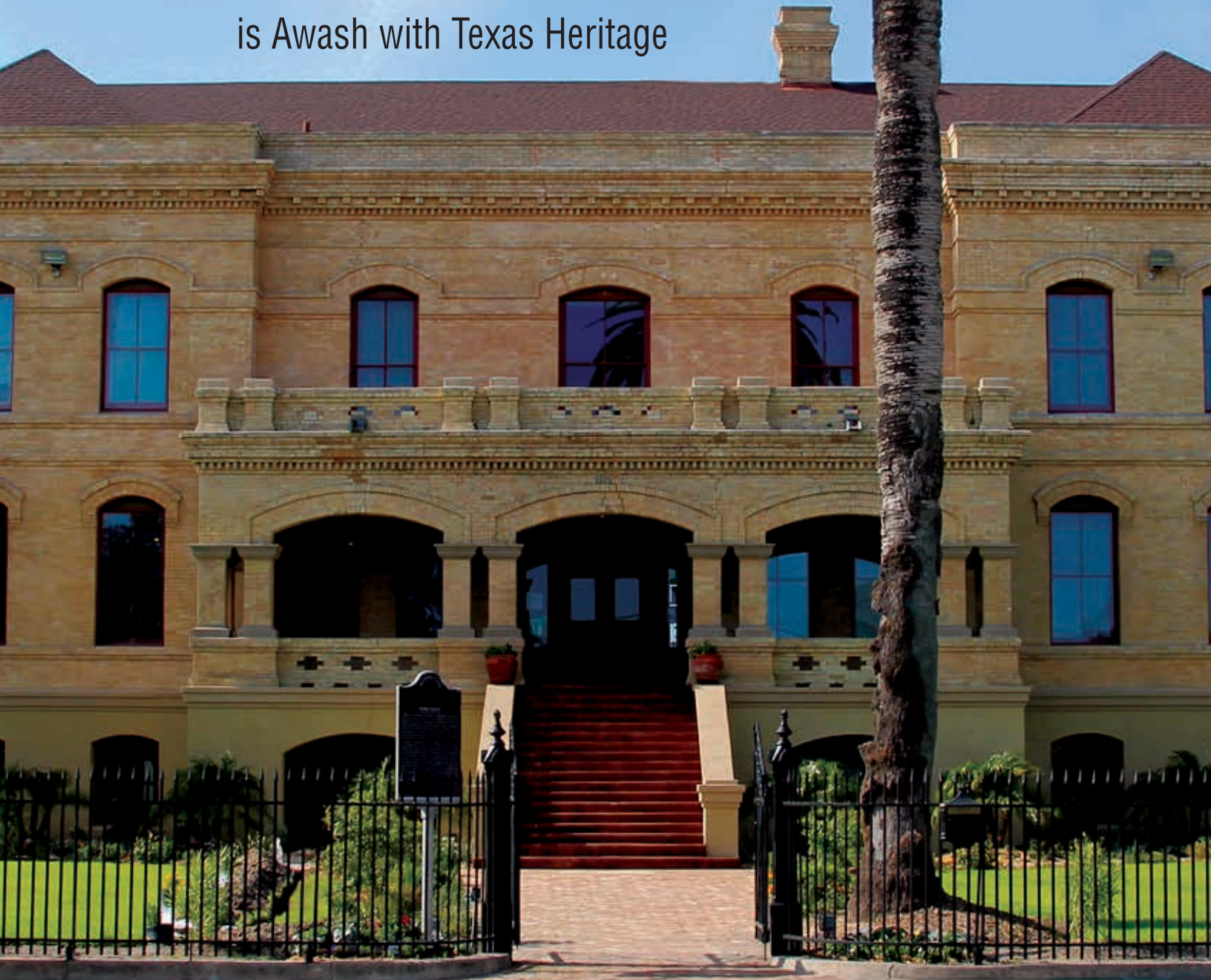
# THE MEDALLION



SUMMER 2015

## *Galveston's Grand History*

Vibrant Gulf Coast Island  
is Awash with Texas Heritage







**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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# THE MEDALLION

SUMMER 2015

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travel resource

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The THC's 20 state historic properties

[www.thcfriends.org](http://www.thcfriends.org)  
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**FAST FACTS**

These numbers show the significant annual economic impact  
of historic building rehabilitation spending in Texas (2013).



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*



It's my pleasure and honor to serve the people of Texas as chairman of the Texas Historical Commission.

I'd like to thank Gov. Abbott for reappointing me to this position, and offer special thanks to my fellow commissioner and friend Gilbert "Pete" Peterson, who served as chairman for the last six months and led us through an extremely successful 2015 legislative session.

Because of the Legislature's support, the THC can fund historic courthouse projects across the state, improve key state historic sites, and offer better customer service to our stakeholders. It is gratifying to know that new resources are available to the agency as I come onboard.

I'm especially excited about the future of the THC's state historic sites and eager to continue the process that began in 2007, when many transferred to THC management.

New funding will help us expand and improve both the National Museum of the Pacific War and San Felipe de Austin. San Felipe de Austin is especially important as we preserve our history and share the Lone Star State's unique story with new generations. The site will host exciting public archeology events this year, and all of us are excited about the discoveries those efforts will reveal.

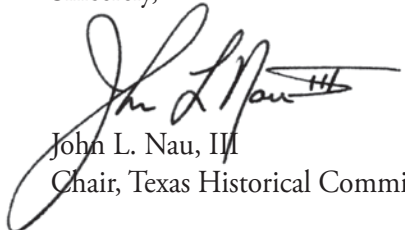
This summer, most state historic sites will unveil new interactive kiosks that allow visitors to plan activities at nearby heritage tourism sites. They join the THC's free Texas Time Travel Tours App and series of printed publications, all available at [www.TexasTimeTravel.com](http://www.TexasTimeTravel.com).

Historic preservation is a tool to preserve the places vital to Texas history—but heritage tourism is how we share our stories, improve our state's economy, and advance the values of preservation to new generations of Texans.

As chairman, I intend to promote these values to larger audiences around the world, and I want you to help. If you enjoy *The Medallion*, pass it along to someone else who shares your interest in Texas history. And if you haven't already, please sign up for the THC's monthly email newsletter and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. I encourage you to use these tools and share your favorite heritage travel experiences with your friends and THC staff.

This is an exciting time for historic preservation in Texas, and the real places and real stories of Texas we all love. I'm eager to lead my fellow commission members and talented THC staff as we move forward and serve the history and people of Texas. Please join us in our mission!

Sincerely,



John L. Nau, III  
 Chair, Texas Historical Commission



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# Cemeteries, Crossings, and Corridors

Recent National Register Listings Showcase Cultural Landscapes

*Text and photos by Gregory Smith  
THC National Register Coordinator*

While the majority of National Register properties in Texas are buildings, several recently designated sites focus primarily on cultural landscapes. These listings include a historic cemetery and golf course, and historic trails reflecting dramatic changes in transportation between 1800 and the early 1940s.

To read more about these nominations and others, visit [www.thc.state.tx.us/nationalregister](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/nationalregister).



Broadway Cemetery, Galveston.

## Broadway Cemetery, Galveston

The Broadway Cemetery Historic District is composed of seven separate cemeteries on six city blocks set aside for family burials as part of the original town charter in 1839. A vast collection of monuments, vaults, and stone markers punctuate the overall landscape and range in style from simple marble and granite headstones to impressive Classical Revival vaults, Gothic Revival mausoleums, and towering obelisks. The organization and layout of the site, as well as tombstone decoration, symbolism, and inscriptions, provide documentation of the traditions and beliefs important to residents of Galveston.



## Chandor Gardens, Weatherford

Chandor Gardens is a five-acre estate west of Fort Worth that was the home and studio of English-born portrait painter Douglas Chandor and his wife Ina. Born in 1897 and trained at the Slade School in London, Chandor came to the United States in 1926 and continued a successful career as a portrait painter for financiers, industrialists, educators, and other prominent people, including Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Queen Elizabeth, and Winston Churchill. The estate features a 1936 residence and studio designed by Fort Worth architect Joseph Pelich, and lush Asian- and English-inspired formal gardens designed and executed by Chandor up to the time of his death in 1953.



Top and top inset: Chandor Gardens, Weatherford; Bottom: Hancock Golf Course, Austin.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources deemed worthy of preservation, and includes more than 3,000 listings in Texas. Listing affords properties a measure of protection from the impact of federally funded



projects, as well as access to technical expertise and grant funds to facilitate preservation. Income-producing properties are also eligible for tax benefits for sympathetic rehabilitation work.

## Hancock Golf Course, Austin

Hancock Golf Course was the first location of the Austin Country Club, established in 1899 during a national rise in the popularity of golf. The nine-hole course was the first in the city, and is the oldest continuously operated course in the state. Founded by former Austin Mayor Lewis Hancock with a committee of business and civic leaders, the country club added nine holes on a separate parcel in 1913 and continued to operate the course as a private segregated facility until 1951, when the organization completed a move to a new location. The City of Austin thereafter operated the course as a public facility, selling off all but the original nine-hole course for commercial development in 1959. The course played an integral part in the introduction and popularity of golf in Austin and retains its historic layout.

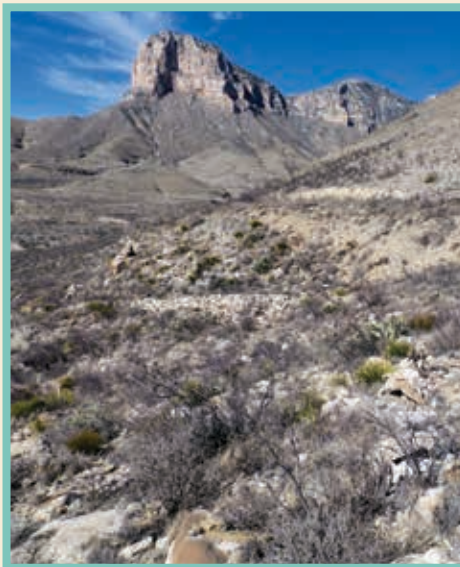


### Pérez Rancho and Dolores Crossing, San Antonio

The Pérez Rancho Site and the Dolores Crossing are within the Medina River Natural Area, and include a *jacal* dwelling, the river crossing site, and the Pérez family cemetery. Pérez Rancho was one of the first Spanish colonial-era ranchos established along the Medina River, strategically located near San Antonio and several roads associated with El Camino Real. Juan Ygnacio Pérez, a grandson of one of the original Canary Island immigrants to San Antonio de Bexar, was a successful military and political leader at the frontier outpost, and made the Pérez family one of the most influential and wealthiest in Spanish Texas. The Dolores Crossing is significant as a ford on the Medina River. This nomination was one of several initiated and funded by the National Park Service under the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail multiple property form.



Pérez Rancho Site and Dolores Crossing, San Antonio.



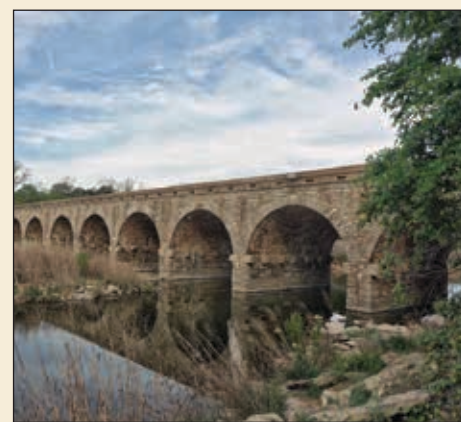
Butterfield Overland Mail Route Corridor, Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

### Butterfield Overland Mail Route Corridor, Guadalupe Mountains National Park

The Butterfield Overland Mail Route Corridor is within and adjacent to the boundaries of Guadalupe Mountains National Park. While the district is named after the most famous period of use for the corridor, it is composed of multiple road alignments and related sites from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries. The corridor came to the attention of U.S. Army surveyors and emigrants after the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the discovery of gold in California in 1848, quickly becoming an important southerly route to the West. The road was adopted for U.S. mail service in 1857 as a segment of the Butterfield Overland Mail route from St. Louis and Memphis to San Francisco. Following the Civil War, Buffalo Soldiers patrolled the region and helped usher in the rise of ranching and private land ownership. By the early 20th century, improved roads were constructed next to and on top of the older alignments, creating a reliable automobile corridor.

### State Highway 16, Palo Pinto County

The nominated 8.4-mile segment of State Highway 16 in Palo Pinto County runs east of Possum Kingdom Lake, located 90 miles west of Fort Worth. Constructed between 1940 and 1942, the section was part of a longer 27.75-mile-long Works Progress Administration project. As the first all-weather transportation facility in the area, the road connected the Morris Sheppard Dam and the eastern shores of Possum Kingdom Lake to major roadways. The nominated segment demonstrates exceptional hand-labor workmanship and engineering through its masonry culverts, guard wall, and the Possum Kingdom Bridge over the Brazos River, which stands as the longest and most substantial masonry arch bridge in Texas. This nomination was prepared by the Texas Department of Transportation under the recently completed Historic Road Infrastructure of Texas multiple property form. ★



Possum Kingdom Bridge on State Highway 16, Palo Pinto County.

Visit [www.thc.state.tx.us/NRhighlights](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/NRhighlights) to see recent listings and highlights added since June 2014.



# Galveston's Grand History

Gulf Coast Island is Awash with Texas Heritage



Text and photos by Andy Rhodes, *The Medallion* Managing Editor

When J.P. Bryan first saw the former Galveston Orphans Home in 2013, two words immediately came to mind: “pretty scary.” After serving as a safe haven for thousands of children for nearly a century, the 1902 brick structure had become abandoned and debris-filled. Bryan, a former commissioner with the Texas Historical Commission, soon realized the building had the potential to provide protection of a different kind. “Once we started envisioning it as a restored building with all the possibilities it held as a museum, I said, ‘Oh my gosh, this could be an incredible opportunity,’” he says.

Bryan, a proud descendant of Moses Austin, recently dedicated the building as **The Bryan Museum** ([www.thebryanmuseum.org](http://www.thebryanmuseum.org), 409.632.7685), which showcases his remarkable collection of more than 70,000 items spanning 2,500 years of Texas and Southwestern history. A portion of Bryan’s collection was previously displayed at the headquarters of his company, Torch Energy Advisors, in downtown Houston. He eventually searched for a larger

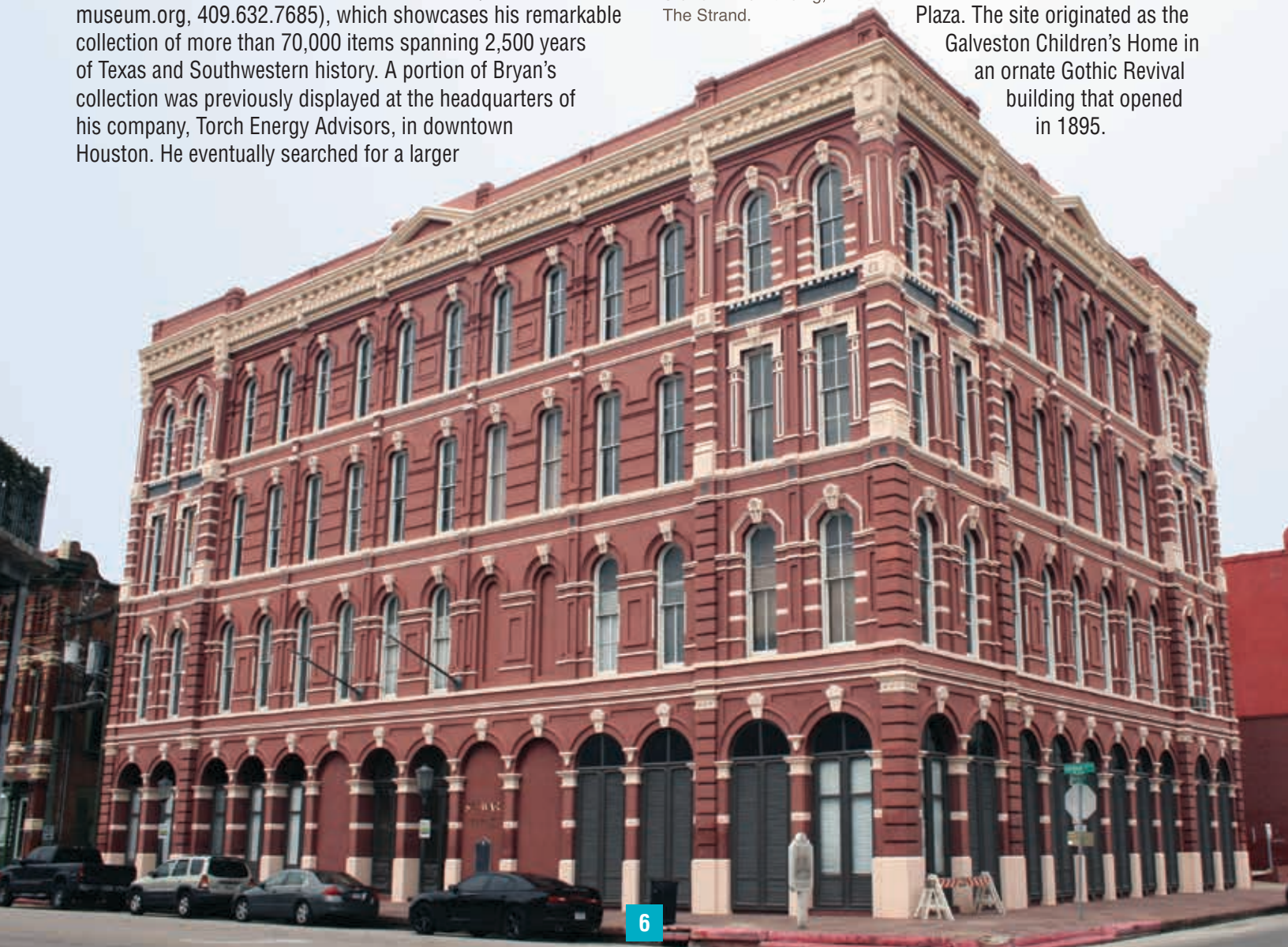
site in nearby Galveston, where much of the region’s history began with the arrival of tens of thousands of immigrants.

“This is where so many people came in to the South and began expanding and settling,” Bryan explains. “The settlement of the Southwest is one of the greatest in the world, and people can see that history revived and shared right here in this museum.”

Appropriately, the building has a storied past. According to Bryan Museum Curator Andrew Gustafson, the orphanage was founded in 1878 by George Dealey, a father of nine who went on to become a highly respected civic leader in Dallas and namesake of the city’s Dealey Plaza.

Stewart Title Building,  
The Strand.

The site originated as the Galveston Children’s Home in an ornate Gothic Revival building that opened in 1895.







The Bryan Museum's eye-catching exhibits include this display dedicated to the region's Spanish Colonial period.

The building was severely damaged in Galveston's 1900 hurricane, but restoration funds were quickly raised by publishing magnate William Randolph Hearst, who hosted a charity bazaar in New York City. The structure was remodeled in a Renaissance Revival style and opened two years later as the Galveston Orphans Home.

Bryan has long dreamed of sharing his passion for Texas and Southwestern history. Since the 1960s, he and his wife Mary Jon have amassed one of the largest collections of its kind in the world. The Bryan Museum features three floors of rare and stunning artifacts, maps, and documents. Highlights include the Joel Robison sword used to aid in Mexican Gen. Santa Anna's capture after the Battle of San Jacinto; authentic correspondence from infamous Gulf Coast pirate Jean Lafitte; a striking collection of



J.P. Bryan and his dog Chalk pose at the Bryan Museum's entrance.

decorative saddles; and historic firearms used in pivotal Texas battles.

Museum visitors can view these and other notable artifacts in eye-catching and dramatically lit exhibit cases. Many are placed over windows with diffused natural light, providing a pleasant backlit appearance with accompanying artwork to highlight the artifacts. The exhibits begin with Native American history—stone tools, artwork, and pottery—and progress chronologically to eras including the Spanish Colonial period, French occupation, and the Texas Revolution.

"The collection isn't solely dedicated to Texas, but a lot of what happened in Texas impacted the entire West," Bryan explains. "Texas was at the core of so many things. We were our own nation, and there were a lot of significant people and events here."

Bryan also takes pride in the building's environmental sustainability, with a geothermal system consisting of 40 wells drilled deep into the ground to harness energy to heat and cool the structure. The museum was also developed with local resources and incorporates reclaimed wood from its basement level.

In addition, the Bryan Museum offers a research library with an impressive document collection. Bryan is especially proud of the letters from William B. Travis at the Alamo and Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto, and rare maps, including one of the first to be made of Texas by noted cartographer Karl Pressler.

According to Bryan, the biggest challenge in developing the museum was addressing its ground floor, which was dilapidated and cluttered with debris. Since it had served as a play area in the Orphans Home, Bryan and his team developed a vision to repurpose the entire floor as a children's gallery with a Gulf Coast theme featuring aquatic creatures and underwater scenes. In addition, an area under the stairs offers a small exhibit dedicated to the building's former residents.

"One of our museum volunteers was an orphan here, and she remembers when she and the other children would play and hide under these stairs," says Jamie Christy, the museum's director. "They created a little doorbell system, and wrote notes on the walls about the teachers. This is just a small way to acknowledge the significance of their lives here and the history of this wonderful building."



A THC medallion tells the story of the Bryan Museum's original inhabitants.

“We’re a very distinct part of the world with a very distinct history. ... We love it, and we think everyone else should, too.”

—J.P. Bryan, former THC Commissioner

Bryan expects the museum will serve an important role for current and future generations to learn about the significance of Texas and regional history. He's excited about sharing the stories of heroes and everyday people who contributed to the compelling story of the Southwest.

"We're a very distinct part of the world with a very distinct history," Bryan says. "Sometimes you'll hear people say history is dull or boring. Not us. We think history is most definitely not boring. We think history is high adventure. We love it, and we think everyone else should, too."

## Gallivanting in Galveston

While in Galveston, heritage travelers should also prioritize a visit to the **Lone Star Flight Museum** ([www.lsfm.org](http://www.lsfm.org), 409.740.7722). The museum offers an impressive collection of vintage warbirds, including a B-17 Flying Fortress, World War II-era F4U Corsair fighter, and a T-6/SNJ Texan trainer.

According to museum director Larry Gregory, most of the planes are still in flying condition, and he's especially grateful

for the World War II veterans who visit the museum and even accompany him on flights. One of his most memorable experiences was flying in a B-25 bomber with a veteran who piloted a similar model nearly 70 years ago.

"He had a big smile on his face the whole time, and after we landed I asked him what it was like compared to the times he flew in combat," Gregory recalls. "He said it was just like when he was in the war—it felt the same, looked the same, even had some of the same smells. The only thing that he missed was the scent of gunpowder, but he definitely didn't miss being shot at."

Gregory adds that the museum's B-25 is the only flying version of the aircraft painted in the colors of the Doolittle Raiders, who executed a daring mission on Japan in April 1942. Led by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, the surprise raid was co-piloted by Lt. Col. Richard Cole, who is now 98 years old and living in Texas.

"One thing we try to get our visitors to understand is the tremendous solidarity of Americans supporting World War II—from civic programs to local gardening efforts to industrial companies," Gregory says. "The whole country was pitching in and making sacrifices for our soldiers."



The Tremont House transports hotel guests to Galveston's late-1800s heyday.

Galveston Island's local history is ably administered by the **Galveston Historical Foundation** (GHF, [www.galvestonhistory.org](http://www.galvestonhistory.org), 409.765.7834), which oversees several properties showcasing different aspects of the city's heritage.

One of the GHF's most visible landmarks is the 1892 **Bishop's Palace** (409.762.2475). The most-visited historic attraction in Galveston, Bishop's Palace is a National Historic Landmark and considered one of the country's most significant examples of a Victorian-era residence. Boasting a dramatic turret on the southeast corner, the mansion also features 14-foot ceilings, stately marble columns, an octagonal mahogany stairwell, and spectacular stained glass windows.

It is open daily for self-guided audio tours and monthly for "basement to attic" tours offering access to off-limits areas.

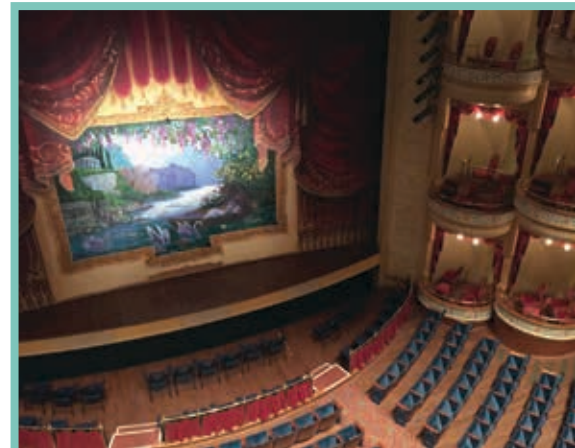
Just down the road, the GHF recently opened an **Architectural Salvage Warehouse** (409.750.9108) in a stylish 1940 former Sears building. Although its primary purpose is to provide historic building materials for local preservation projects, the warehouse is also a fascinating place for heritage tourists to scour the shelves for intricate and unique furniture, hardware, and woodwork.

Nearby is another impressive GHF site, **Ashton Villa**. The 1859 Italianate mansion is primarily used for private events, but its carriage house serves as a public visitors center. The site also features a commemorative statue honoring Juneteenth, when Union Gen. Gordon Granger read the Emancipation Proclamation nearby on June 19, 1865. This year marked the 150th anniversary of the historic event, which included a celebration around the statue.

The GHF also administers the popular **Texas Seaport Museum** and historic ship ***Elissa*** (409.763.1877). The 1877 British cargo ship twice loaded cotton at Galveston, prompting the GHF to purchase the ship and undertake a dramatic restoration in 1982. *Elissa* remains a fully functional vessel that continues to sail occasionally, and thousands of visitors annually board the decks of this floating National Historic Landmark. The adjacent Texas Seaport Museum tells the story of *Elissa's* rescue from the scrap yard, along with Galveston's legacy of maritime commerce and immigration.



The 1892 Bishop's Palace is Galveston's most-visited historic attraction.



The Grand 1894 Opera House.





The carved “Birds of Galveston” is a highlight of the popular Galveston Tree Sculptures Tour.

The museum is adjacent to **The Strand** ([www.thestrand.com](http://www.thestrand.com)), Galveston’s downtown business hub in the prosperous late-1800s and early 1900s. The 36-block historic district captures the essence of the city’s “Wall Street of the South” era with popular shops, restaurants, and galleries.

One of the area’s heritage highlights is the **Grand 1894 Opera House** ([www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com), 409.763.7173). Listed in the National Register, the Grand was also proclaimed the Official Opera House of Texas by the Texas Legislature in 1993. The building’s rich history is apparent in the ornate Victorian-era furnishings and red velvet-lined curtains and chairs in the elegantly protruding box seats.

The Strand is also home to the stately **Tremont House** ([www.thetremonthouse.com](http://www.thetremonthouse.com), 409.763.0300). The hotel transports guests to Galveston’s heyday with lofty ceilings and windows, wrought-iron beds, and antique furnishings. The Tremont also recently resurrected a popular tradition of hosting a seasonal afternoon tea, next scheduled for September 14 (reservations available via the website).

“This is a revival of a classic Sunday afternoon tradition that was an important cultural activity in historic Galveston,” says the Tremont’s Christine Hopkins. “We recreate it by offering more than a dozen varieties of tea along with finger foods and treats—cucumber sandwiches, macaroons, and exquisite pastries—accompanied by a harpist, which is simply beautiful.”

Similarly historic is the Tremont’s sister property, the **Hotel Galvez** ([www.hotelgalvez.com](http://www.hotelgalvez.com), 409.765.7721). Known as the “Queen of the Gulf” when it opened in 1911, the

Galvez is stunning in its Victorian elegance. The hotel includes a modest yet fascinating exhibit area, featuring informative panels, historic artifacts, and photos highlighting the island’s colorful Gulf Coast heritage, from maritime adventures to bathing beauty contests.

Heritage travelers seeking lodging in one of Galveston’s celebrated historic residential districts should consider the 1870 **Lasker Inn** ([www.laskerinn.com](http://www.laskerinn.com), 409.497.4318). After the 1900 storm, the Greek Revival home served as a refuge for homeless children for nearly a century, and it is now considered Galveston’s most popular bed-and-breakfast.

Another residential-district highlight is the **Galveston Tree Sculptures Tour** (information and maps available at [www.galveston.com](http://www.galveston.com), 409.797.5144). In 2008, Hurricane Ike devastated the island with a tidal surge that ultimately led to the demise of thousands of oak trees. Local artists

paid tribute to the majestic oaks by creating carvings from the tree remnants. Highlights include “Birds of Galveston,” a large live oak containing 17 carved birds, and “Tin Man and Toto” at the home where “Wizard of Oz” co-director King Vidor was born.

“Galveston truly embraces the history of our late-1800s golden era as the Playground of the South,” says Mary Beth Bassett of the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau. “Now we have amazing new places like the Bryan Museum that are bringing history lovers here to help us celebrate a new golden era for Galveston.” ★



For information about other heritage tourism destinations in the Galveston area, order a free copy of the THC’s *Texas Independence Trail Region* travel guide at 866.276.6219 or [www.texasindependence.com](http://www.texasindependence.com).



Top right: An exhibit at the Hotel Galvez. Right: A T-6 Trainer airplane at the Lone Star Flight Museum.

View more Galveston photos at [www.thc.tx.us/blog](http://www.thc.tx.us/blog).

# Cherished Companies

THC's Texas Treasure Business Award Honors Historic Entities

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, The Medallion

In many Texas communities, it's common to see a business proudly touting its 25th or even 40th anniversary. Far less common is the company that remains in business for 50 or 100 years.

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Treasure Business Award (TTBA) pays tribute to companies that reflect the state's history, having provided employment and significant contributions to the state's economic growth for at least 50 years. More than 250 businesses have received the award since 2005, and the decorative window decals indicating this distinction are becoming more common on storefronts across the state.

Businesses can be nominated for the award by an elected state official, business representative, or community organization—including Main Street managers and County Historical Commission members. They must meet the following criteria:

- Operate as a for-profit business in Texas for at least 50 years.
- Offer the same or very similar type of business as it did at least 50 years ago.
- Have a continuous record of employment for at least the past 50 years.

Cuero residents recently bestowed this special honor on a spate of local businesses, with 11 companies receiving the award on May 12. During the ceremony at Cuero City



THC's Alvin Miller and Cuero Mayor Sara Post Meyer present the TTBA to Annette and Erwin Rath, Jr. of Cuero Propane Gas Co.; Left: A 1906 prescription from San Augustine Drug Co.

Hall, Mayor Sara Post Meyer and THC Deputy Director Alvin Miller presented awards to businesses ranging from an auto supply shop to a funeral home to a propane company.

One of the oldest of these businesses is *The Cuero Record*, which has been operating in the city's historic downtown business district for 121 years. The newspaper's owners helped construct the building that has housed the business continuously since 1907.

In 1919, Cuero became a single-news-paper town when the *Record* acquired all five competing papers in the area. In 1926, the newspaper installed its first press (setting the type by hand), and in 1955 the *Record* earned the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism.

The THC also recently presented a TTBA to the San Augustine Drug Co., founded 111 years ago in San Augustine. In 1904, Alonzo Rushing and his

brother Asa opened the business in a nearby location; by 1913, they purchased a larger building where the company has remained ever since.

Thirteen years later, the Rushings hired Casey Jones, who managed the soda fountain. In 1928, Jones invented the now-famous, secret-recipe Grapefruit Hi-ball, a popular treat for San Augustine residents and visitors for the past eight decades.

Among the "newer" businesses to receive a TTBA this year is Austin's Broken Spoke, a honky tonk dating to 1964. Owner James White, who began construction on the establishment the same day he received his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, was inspired by the rural live music venues he attended with his parents in the 1940s.

The Broken Spoke began drawing national attention in the late 1960s when legendary Western Swing musician Bob Wills performed there. Over the next several decades, the Broken Spoke's

ground-level stage would support ascending country music stars such as Ernest Tubbs, Buck Owens, Dolly Parton, George Strait, and Willie Nelson.

For more information about the THC's Texas Treasure Business Award or to download a nomination form, visit [www.thc.state.tx.us/ttba](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/ttba). For additional details, call 512.463.6092. ★



Austin's Broken Spoke: "Through this door pass the best country music dancers in the world."



# Gov. Abbott Appoints THC Chair

## Nau Returns as Agency's Chairman; Jefferson and Galo Join Commission

By Andy Rhodes

Managing Editor, The Medallion

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott appointed and named John L. Nau, III as chairman of the Texas Historical Commission for a term to expire on February 1, 2021. Gov. Abbott also appointed Wallace Jefferson and Anna Benavides Galo to terms set to expire on February 1, 2019 and February 1, 2021, respectively.

**John L. Nau, III** is President and Chief Executive Officer of Silver Eagle Distributors, L.P., the nation's largest distributor of Anheuser-Busch products. Silver Eagle employs more than 1,300 employees that serve 16 counties in Texas through operations in Houston, San Antonio, Conroe, Cypress, Pasadena, Rosenberg, Carrizo Springs, and Del Rio. Nau also serves on the National Park Foundation's Board of Directors, Civil War Trust Board of Directors, the Texas State Historical Association Board of Directors, Baylor College of Medicine Board of Trustees, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American

History Board of Trustees, and the University of Houston Board of Visitors. He is an Advisory Council member to the Center for Big Bend Studies, and an Honorary Trustee of the Greater Houston Convention & Visitors Bureau, Texas Heart Institute, and San Antonio Parks Foundation.

Nau serves as a board member for the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, Discovery Green Conservancy, Friends of Vicksburg National Military Park, and Houston Police Foundation. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia, where he earned a bachelor's degree in History, and currently serves on the Board of Visitors, a position appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He is founder and President of The Nau Foundation.



**Anna Benavides Galo** of Laredo is active in her family's business, serving as co-trustee of the family mineral trust as well as Vice President

and Co-Operations Manager of several companies dealing with oil and gas holdings, commercial real estate, and ranch industries. She is also a former educator. Galo is a loyal advocate to fighting hunger in South Texas and is the current president of the board of directors at the South Texas Food Bank. In 2010, Las Damas de la Cultura de Oro, an organization that conserves Hispanic customs and traditions for future generations in Texas, recognized Galo with the La Dama Award for her tireless efforts and contributions toward this cause. Galo was also inducted by LEAD Laredo into its Laredo Hall of Fame, and in 2011, she and her husband were honored with the Blue Spirit of

Excellence Award by the Laredo Police Officers Association. In 2013, Galo was awarded Tejano Achiever by LULAC Council No. 12. She was also recently inducted into the Jr. Achievement Laredo Business Hall of Fame. Galo served on the City of Laredo Historic Landmark Board, committed to the preservation of the historic areas of the city. Galo and her family enabled the renovation and preservation of the American Legion's Post 59. Galo graduated from St. Mary's University with a bachelor's degree in English.



**Wallace B. Jefferson** is a partner at Alexander Dubose Jefferson & Townsend, LLP in Austin. Prior to joining the law firm, Jefferson served as the Chief Justice

to the Supreme Court of Texas from 2004 until 2013 and as an associate justice from 2001 until 2004. Justice

Jefferson serves on the University of Texas Development Board, Council of the American Law Institute, University of Texas Law School Foundation, and the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society. Justice Jefferson has three times made Texas judicial history as the first appointed African American justice to the Texas Supreme Court; first elected African American justice to the court along with Justice Dale Wainwright; and first African American Chief Justice to the Texas Supreme Court.

Justice Jefferson received the Pillars of the Foundation award by the Northside Independent School District and is the namesake of San Antonio's Wallace B. Jefferson Middle School. Jefferson received a bachelor's degree in Political Philosophy from James Madison College at Michigan State University and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Texas School of Law. He is the recipient of the University of Texas School of Law's Outstanding Alumnus Award, Michigan State University Outstanding Alumnus Award, and Texas Exes' Distinguished Alumnus Award. ★

# Summer School

## THC's Diversity Intern Continues Preservation Education

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, The Medallion

Why take a break from school when there are so many learning opportunities available? That was the mindset of Lara Fields, a Houston native entering her junior year at Pennsylvania's Bryn Mawr College.

Fields spent the summer absorbing the real-world experiences of professional preservationists as part of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Diversity Internship program. In the process, she learned about day-to-day activities associated with jobs and projects related to preserving Texas' history.

Fields recently answered a series of questions about her interest in historic preservation and plans for the future.



Lara Fields (far left) recently visited United Arab Emirates for an archeological excavation.

heritage. This rich heritage incorporates the narratives of a diverse array of people, which has created a broader cultural flavor that is wholly unique to the state. It is this distinct cultural legacy that fuels my interest in Texas' past, present, and how my story fits into its overarching historical narrative.

### How do you

### Why did you decide to pursue this internship opportunity with the THC?

I felt a strong connection to the projects offered by the Diversity Internship and to the THC's mission. Recently, I've been eager to explore how archeology is used as a tool for community engagement. When I was introduced to the position, I was struck by how well the goals of the program fit with my interests in public archeology.

**How have your past experiences (school, work, volunteer activities, etc.) prepared you for interning with the agency?** Through my courses I've been exposed to topics ranging from contemporary archeological theory to questions concerning cultural heritage destruction. These topics and others have made me critically assess the responsibility of archeologists toward public and non-academic audiences. I also recently participated in my very first excavation, which occurred at the site of Tell Abraq in the UAE! These activities have increased my technical skill-set and have provided me with a visceral appreciation for the multifaceted,

difficult, and rewarding nature of studying the human past.

**What factors did you consider when choosing your major?** Since I was very little I've been fascinated by archeology, especially of the ancient Near East. This initial curiosity strongly influenced my desire to study Classical and Near Eastern Archeology at Bryn Mawr College.

**What are you looking forward to accomplishing during your internship this summer?** I'm very excited to take part in the Undertold Historical Markers project. Through this project I hope to learn more about the Jewish heritage of Texas. The Jewish community has an extensive legacy in the state, but it is not well known, even to those within the Jewish community itself. I hope by educating myself in this underrepresented history, I can in turn educate others on the richness and diverse nature of the Jewish experience in Texas.

**Why is Texas an interesting place to pursue a career in a history-related field?** Texas is a landscape that has an extensive historic and prehistoric

**anticipate using your experience at the THC in the future?** Because of the THC's commitment to community outreach, I look forward to pursuing projects that benefit both my personal curiosity and the community at large. I believe that archeology has the capacity to spread lessons of inclusion. As I grow in my career, I hope to establish projects that bring individuals together through a shared sense of history that celebrates the diversity of the human experience.

**How do you like to spend your free time?** I love to read. During the academic year I don't have a lot of free time to do pleasure reading, so now that summer has arrived I set aside many an afternoon to unwind with a good book. Recently I have been neck deep in *Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson, which has kept me very entertained. Next on my list is *The Story of B*. ★

The THC's Diversity Internship program builds early interest in historic preservation among students from under-represented ethnic groups. The program is funded by private gifts. To make a donation, call 512.936.2189 or visit [www.thcfriends.org/special-projects/thc-diversity-internship](http://www.thcfriends.org/special-projects/thc-diversity-internship).



# Pacific Power

## National Museum of the Pacific War Honors World War II's Events, Veterans

By Andy Rhodes  
Managing Editor, The Medallion

There's only one institution in the continental U.S. dedicated exclusively to the Pacific Theater battles of World War II, and it's near some of Texas' biggest cities in one of the most scenic and welcoming destinations in the Lone Star State.

Centrally located in Fredericksburg, the National Museum of the Pacific War—one of 20 historic sites administered by the Texas Historical Commission (THC)—honors the dramatic, exciting, and tragic stories associated with this significant portion of World War II, which ended 70 years ago this August.

The National Museum of the Pacific War was originally known as the Admiral Nimitz Museum, named after Fredericksburg native Chester Nimitz, one of the most respected leaders of World War II's Pacific campaign. As fleet admiral, Nimitz built an aggressive combat team and led U.S. forces at the Battle of Midway, considered the U.S. Navy's greatest victory.

The site's historic hub is known as the Admiral Nimitz Museum, where the original Pacific War Museum was located before the facilities expanded to include three museums on a six-acre campus. A landmark in Fredericksburg since the late 1800s, the building was the old Nimitz Steamboat Hotel, owned and operated by Admiral Nimitz's grandfather Charles Henry Nimitz Sr., and the admiral's childhood home.

In 2009, the museum added the George H.W. Bush Gallery. The gallery features media installations, nearly 1,000 artifacts, and hundreds of historic photographs. It demonstrates that the Pacific Theater was not a sideshow to the war in Europe, but a conflict

that itself affected the course of world history.

The original portion of the museum features artifacts, equipment, and models related to the Pacific campaign, including a B-25 bomber, battleship artillery, a submarine, and an impressive collection of uniforms, weapons, and scale-model destroyers and aircraft carriers. Elaborate walk-through dioramas bring the island combat scenes dramatically to life.

Outside the exhibit halls lie a memorial courtyard honoring World War II veterans, a Plaza of Presidents



Flag Day at the National Museum of the Pacific War, June 14, 2015.

dedicated to the 10 commanders-in-chief who served in the war, and the Japanese Garden of Peace, an inviting natural sanctuary containing the three basic elements in a traditional Japanese garden: stone, plants, and water. The garden

was a gift to the American people from Japanese military leaders, who held Admiral Nimitz in high regard. ★

**National Museum of the Pacific War**  
340 E. Main St.  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
830.997.8600  
[www.pacificwarmuseum.org](http://www.pacificwarmuseum.org)

## WORLD WAR II-RELATED EVENTS

The National Museum of the Pacific War will soon host one of its most popular annual activities: a World War II battle reenactment featuring uniformed actors, guns, tanks, and a flamethrower. This year's events will be held September 5 and 6 (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.) at the museum's Pacific Combat Zone. Online reservations are recommended; please visit [www.nimitz-bookstore.com](http://www.nimitz-bookstore.com).

Another special World War II-related event, opening on October 17, is the exhibit Tom Lea: Life & WWII. Lea, an influential El Paso artist and novelist, was a war correspondent for *Life* magazine. The museum will showcase dozens of his paintings and works on paper until January 16, 2016.



World War II reenactment.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

# *La Belle* Moves to Final Resting Place at Austin Museum



On May 21, *La Belle* made her final voyage. Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle's ship left France in 1684, crossed the Atlantic, sank in Matagorda Bay in 1686, was discovered and excavated by THC archeologists in 1996–97, conserved in College Station, delivered to the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin last year, and finally moved to her permanent resting place in the museum's first-floor gallery.

*La Belle* will reopen to the public August 8 in its new location as the centerpiece of the Bullock Texas State History Museum's first-floor galleries. The reassembled ship's hull, key artifacts from the excavation, and interactive displays will remain on view while behind-the-scenes renovation of the first floor continues. Nearly 10,000 of the museum's 34,000 square feet of exhibition space will undergo a complete transformation as part of a \$10 million project. When completed, the new galleries will feature hundreds of original artifacts spanning 13,000 years of history with a fresh design and new digital media experiences.

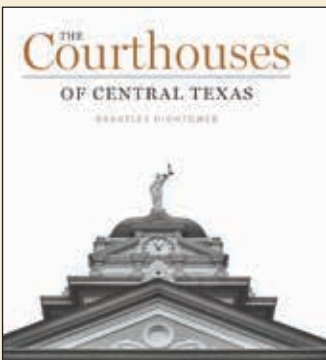
For more information about the Bullock Texas State History Museum, visit [www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com). To learn more about *La Belle*, visit [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us). ★

Photo: The Goddess of Liberty's view of *La Belle* in her permanent location at the Bullock Texas State History Museum.

## NEW BOOK HIGHLIGHTS CENTRAL TEXAS COURTHOUSES

A new book, *The Courthouses of Central Texas*, offers an in-depth, comparative architectural survey of 50 distinctive county courthouses. The courthouses—several of which were restored through the THC's Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program—are highlighted in the book with detailed descriptions, historic photographs, and two- and sometimes three-dimensional drawings of facades with modifications over time. Side-by-side drawings and plans also facilitate comparisons between the courthouses.

Author Brantley Hightower spent years developing the photos and graphics, allowing for unprecedented and direct comparisons among the courthouses. For more information or to order a copy, visit [www.utpress.utexas.edu](http://www.utpress.utexas.edu). ★



## THC REQUESTS SUBMISSIONS FOR ONLINE ARCHEOLOGY MONTH CALENDAR

Texas Archeology Month (TAM) is just around the corner in October, and the THC is seeking event submissions from the public for the annual TAM Calendar of Events. The THC invites anyone hosting an archeology- or history-related event in conjunction with TAM to submit information to the agency via the electronic TAM Event Form at <http://bit.ly/1HhUH16>. The deadline for submissions is September 15.

Submitted information will be added to the TAM Calendar of Events that will be available on the THC website. It will be posted in August and updated bi-weekly through late September. THC staff is urging contributors to use the electronic form and not send TAM event information by mail or email to ensure the event is included.

The THC cosponsors TAM in association with the Texas Archeological Society and the Council of Texas Archeologists. For more information, contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512.463.6096. ★



Panther Cave, Seminole Canyon.



# Focus on Historic Resources

## Learn About the State Antiquities Landmarks in Your County

By Amy Hammons,  
County Historical Commission Outreach Coordinator

County Historical Commission appointees are encouraged to become familiar with the State Antiquities Landmarks (SAL) in their county and let the Texas Historical Commission (THC) know if they see signs of deterioration or modification of the properties. SALs receive legal protection under the Antiquities Code of Texas.

Before they can be designated as SALs, buildings must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). However, NRHP listing is not required for archeological sites. The Antiquities Code defines all cultural resources on non-federal public lands in Texas as eligible to be designated as SALs.

The SAL designation requires property owners to consult with the THC through a permitting process prior to altering or destroying any part of the property or building. This process enables THC staff to work with property owners to preserve the characteristics that make a site or building worthy of the SAL designation.

The THC website explains SAL designation and permitting procedures, and includes links to the Antiquities Code. This

information is available at [www.thc.state.tx.us/sal](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/sal).

Many Texas courthouses carry the SAL designation, but the Texas Government Code protects those that do not. Courthouse protection was included in these statutes because the Texas Legislature realized that courthouses—some of our state's most important cultural resources—were being damaged or destroyed.

The Texas Administrative Code includes the rules for implementing THC statutes that protect courthouses. Information is available at [www.thc.state.tx.us/courthouseprotectioncode](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/courthouseprotectioncode).

The THC recommends that property owners and interested citizens contact agency staff to discuss proposed changes to SALs and courthouses, as well as concerns related to their deteriorated or altered state. Proposed work to courthouse grounds should also be discussed with staff.

SAL archeological sites are not publicized in order to prevent potential looting, but you can use the

THC's Texas Historic Sites Atlas at [atlas.thc.state.tx.us](http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us) to see if SAL buildings are located in your county. For questions about SALs, please contact the THC's Architecture Division at 512.463.6094 or the Archeology Division at 512.463.6096. ★



Above: THC staff member Rob Hodges reads a THC marker on the grounds of Fayette County Courthouse, a State Antiquities Landmark.

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### Our Mission

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

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## WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

**Know your Texas history?** Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Send your answer to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 or email to [medallion@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:medallion@thc.state.tx.us). Limit one prize annually per contestant.

Need a clue? This Texas Lakes Trail Region city has been an active participant in the THC's Main Street Program since 1989.

Answer to the photo from previous issue: This structure is a former calaboose (a small jail) in La Grange. Archeologist Bill Moore of Bryan has been documenting Texas calaboooses, and his extensive research is available at [www.tinytexasjails.com](http://www.tinytexasjails.com). Congratulations and prizes go to the following readers, all from La Grange, who correctly identified the site: Lauren Huenefeld (who saw the photo while "spending the day with my granny Audrey Huenefeld"), Gesine Koether, and Lisa Oltmann. Thanks to all who participated! ★



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